

DARENTH PARK



ANNUAL REPORT

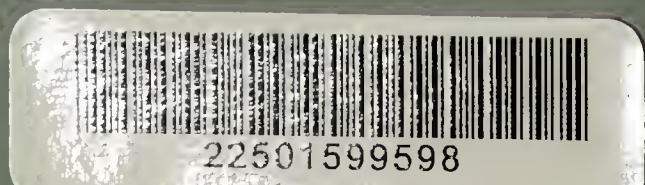
1948



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DARENTH & STONE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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DARENTH AND STONE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

DARENTH PARK.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1948.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for  
1948, as follows :-

PART 1.

				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1.	Average number of patients resident -			966	656	1,662
2.	New admission - Under					
	M.D. Acts.	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>T.</u>		
	Sec. 3.	1	-	1		
	Sec. 6.	51	69	120		
	Sec. 7.	1	2	3		
	Sec. 8.	26	8	34	84	87
	Sec. 9.	2	2	4		
	Sec. 15.	1	4	5		
	Licence	2	2	4		
		<u>84</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>171</u>		171
	Under Lunacy Act. (Sec.24).	-	-	-		
3.	Discharged to -					
	Friends	2	2	4		
	Other M.D. Inst.	14	11	25		
	Certified under Lunacy Acts and transferred to other Hosps.	3	4	7		
	By Order of Board of Control.	14	11	25		
	By Order of Visitors	1	4	5	48	36
	By Operation of Law	14	4	18		
	Guardianship	-	-	-		
	Public Assistance Institutions	-	-	-		
	Cases under Lunacy Act (Sec.24) to Public Assistance Institutions	-	-	-		
		<u>48</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>84</u>		84
4.	Leave granted -					
	Period up to 47 hrs.	372	240	612		
	Period up to 3 months	416	198	614	816	462
	Period up to 6 months	28	24	52		
		<u>816</u>	<u>462</u>	<u>1278</u>		1,278



		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>T.</u>
5.	Transferred on licence to other institutions.	-	-	-
6.	Already on leave 1.1.48	161	85	246
7.	Licences issued during 1948	<u>M.</u> 37	<u>F.</u> 47	<u>T.</u> 84
	Licences extended for those issued during 1948	42	36	78
	For those issued prior to 1948.	86	32	118
8.	Licences revoked during 1948.	11	2	13
9.	Escapes from institution.	62	10	72
	Escapes while on leave.	20	9	29
10.	Recaptured	76	21	97



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PART II.MEDICAL & PHYSICAL REPORT.

The percentage distribution of admissions certified under the Mental Deficiency Acts of 1913-27-38 was, under

Section 6	70%
Section 7	2%
Section 8	20%
Section 9	2%
Section 15	2%
Section 3	1%

Licence from other institutions accounted for 3%

The percentage age groups of the 84 male admissions were :-

<u>Age 16-20 yrs.</u>	<u>Age 21-30 yrs.</u>	<u>Age 31-40 yrs.</u>	<u>Age 41-60 yrs.</u>
58%	31%	5%	6%

and, of these, 95% were feeble-minded and 5% imbecile.

The percentage age groups of the 87 female admissions were :-

<u>Age 16-20 yrs.</u>	<u>Age 21-30 yrs.</u>	<u>Age 31-40 yrs.</u>	<u>Age 41-60 yrs.</u>
43%	35%	14%	8%

and, of these 87 admissions 62% were feeble-minded, 33% imbecile and 5% idiot.

14 of the male admissions under Section 8 - 9 of the M.D. Acts, had a history of larceny, and 14 of assault, either criminal or indecent.

Of 46 female admissions 14 had a history of immorality, 10 of violence, 5 of larceny, and 7 of having borne illegitimate children or having contracted venereal disease.

As a general rule admissions were in good health, though some were admitted in a verminous condition. During 1948, 41 cases were transferred from the Fountain Hospital. The majority of these were low grade cases, many of whom had gross physical disability of neurological type.

The general health of the patients was good, and no major or minor epidemics occurred during the year. As in the general population, minor skin troubles and septic conditions of the skin formed the commonest every day ailment. Respiratory disease and cardio-vascular disorders were the next commonest illnesses.

Tuberculosis continues to be a problem which the limited amenities here render difficult to deal with as effectively as one would like. During the year 11 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were diagnosed amongst the male patients and three amongst the female patients. Much attention is paid to the early diagnosis of Tuberculosis and chest X-rays taken whenever a mildly suspicious case is found.





195 male patients were so X-rayed and 98 female patients. In addition routine check was kept at regular intervals on all members of the staff employed, however seldom, in T.B. wards. It is hoped that in 1949 a mass radiography check will greatly assist diagnosis, although it will not help in the disposal of the cases.

265 general surgical and medical cases were treated in the Hospital Block during the year for conditions regarded as more than trivial, and 529 cases were treated in the infirmary wards, apart from the Hospital Block, for minor ailments. In addition 385 patients attended the infirmary wards as out-patients.

The casualty rate for males was 267 and for females 81. There were no casualties of a more serious nature than severed tendons due to smashing windows.

The Hospital Block continues to be an invaluable adjunct to the care of the patients. In addition to the major operations listed below, 46 operations were performed by the medical officers. A varicose vein clinic was held (25 cases), the Ear, Nose and Throat clinic continued to run successfully (65 cases), and the usual routine V.D. treatment given.

Ward 25 was opened on 2.3.1948.

The death rate was 1.2%. This is 0.7% less than last year. The causes of death were -

1. Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6
2. Cardio-vascular	4
3. Other respiratory	4
4. Epilepsy	2
5. Other	4

Autopsy was carried out on 13 out of the 20 deaths.

#### GENERAL SURGERY.

Mr. Tanner attended on 5 occasions and performed 7 major operations. None of these was an emergency and during 1948 no acute surgical emergency arose.

#### ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY.

Mr. Lindsay paid 6 visits and performed 16 orthopaedic operations for the correction of deformities.

#### OPHTHALMOLOGY.

Mr. Gardner attended 5 times and examined and treated 96 patients with eye complaints, he also paid two emergency visits. Glasses were provided or adjusted as required.



EAR, NOSE AND THROAT.

Mr. Asherson attended on 3 occasions and carried out one radical mastoid examination.

Mr. Watts carried out two minor surgical emergency operations.

DENTAL DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Alan A. Thomas, L.D.S., R.C.S.I., visiting dental surgeon made 91 attendances for treatments and 6 attendances for inspection during 1948. 907 patients attended for treatment, 870 of whom needed treatment. 662 of these attended for the first time in 1948. 1,106 teeth were extracted, 404 local anaesthetics and 72 general anaesthetics were given.

Conservative treatment was carried out when possible, but only 25 fillings were completed, the available time for these being reduced to a minimum because of the number of patients requiring extractions. 52 scalings were done, but this was only a very small proportion of those required.

33 patients were fitted with dentures. 44 full dentures were provided and 7 partial dentures. 38 repairs to dentures were completed. 341 patients were made dentally fit during the year.

The dental surgeon has commenced a survey of the oral hygiene of all the patients of the hospital, and so far as he has been able to carry this out, 113 patients require total extractions and full dentures, 62 require full dentures, 53 require partial dentures, 162 require scalings and nearly all those with teeth standing in reasonable health, require scaling and polishing.

Mr. Thomas has suggested the employment of a dental hygienist who could perform scaling and teach dental hygiene under his supervision, thus easing the dental surgeon's work and expediting the treatment required.

In his report Mr. Thomas stated "I have found the Nursing Staff most co-operative ..... and wish to thank them for the help they have given me."





LABORATORY REPORT.

The Laboratory is still under the charge of Mr. Redford, B.Sc., A.M.I.M.E., whose keenness is undiminished. Routine laboratory work has been performed as set out hereunder.

Haematology.

Full Blood count including differential count	258
W.B.C's and differential count	167
Estimation of Sedimentation rate	396
Blood fragility test	7
Blood Coagulation time	37
Blood typing	67
Platelet count	28
Miscellaneous tests	137

Bacteriology.

Faeces for Typhoid, Dysentery & Salmonella Group	432
Urine for Typhoid, Dysentery and Salmonella Group	432
Faeces for T.B.	13
Urine for T.B.	8
Sputum for T.B.	425
Throat swabs for infecting organisms	56
Eye swabs for infecting organisms	12
Vaginal swabs for infecting organisms	48
Fus for infecting organisms	24
Urine for infecting organisms	45
Serous fluid for infecting organisms	26
Blood cultures for infecting organisms	26
Typing of organisms	53
Agglutination tests	52
Penicillin sensitivity tests	14
Bacteriology of Domestic Water supply	2
Miscellaneous tests	57

Biochemical tests.

Estimation of Blood Sugar	75
" " Urea	16
" " Sulphonamides	36
" " Bilirubin	22
" " Total Proteins	34
" " Chlorides	23
" " Creatinine	23
" " Cholesterol	6
" " Calcium	4
" " Uric Acid	3
" " Acetone	5
" " Barbiturates	6
" " Urine Sugar	45
" " Sulphonamides	36
" " Proteins	137
" " Phenylpyruvic acid	1342
" " Urea	16
" " Chlorides	16
" " Creatinine	16
Urea Concentration Tests	6
Urea Clearance tests	6
Routine Urine examinations	2432





Biochemical tests.

Test meals	13
Chemical examination of Domestic Water supply	2
Other tests - Miscellaneous.	54

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Blood sent to West Park Hospital, Central Path. Laboratory, for Wasserman Reaction.	160
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C.S.F. as above	20
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T.M's.	13
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DISPENSING AND PHOTOGRAPHY.

Owing to the resignation of Mr. Broadbent, Pharmacist, and his departure in September, 1948; and the lack of suitable applicants for the post, it has not been possible to set the clinical photography unit under way. Mrs. Manning has very kindly acted as temporary dispenser since Mr. Broadbent left, but does not wish to carry on any longer than is absolutely necessary. She has only undertaken to do the dispensing for personal reasons of friendship, and she does not do photography. In consequence it has also not been possible for photographic records to be taken of patients admitted since mid-September, 1948.

During the year the average number of prescriptions dispensed daily was 80, with about 40 stock supplies, such as dressings and disinfectants. The issue of 54 new pairs of spectacles was made through this department together with repairs to 205.



WORKSHOPS.

With the exception of basket making and toymaking all the industries have been continued. With the transfer of Management some shops, e.g. printers, have been overburdened with work, while others, e.g. upholsterer's and mattress maker's have not had sufficient work to keep their patients fully occupied. Mr. Morgan, Craftsman, kept the brush-shop going for some months, in addition to his other duties until the services of a brushmaker were obtained. Basket-making and toy-making had to be temporarily discontinued as in 1947 because of lack of necessary staff.

The obtaining of materials, particularly of textiles, has been difficult, and the prospects for 1949 in this regard are obscure. It is feared that in the coming year it will be very doubtful whether it will be possible to keep the patients in the shops fully occupied, especially the female patients.

The turnover in the industrial department during 1948 had a total value of some £112,000.

A list of industries with their annual output is given below.

List of Articles Manufactured at  
Darent Park Hospital -  
1.10.47 - 30.9.48.

Bookbinders and Printers.

Envelopes, various	45,000	
Toilet paper in packets	76,749 $\frac{1}{2}$	pkts
Labels, printed, cut and eyeletted	180,600	
Various cards, printed	9,600	
Manilla Case paper, folders, etc.	130,300	
Brown paper bags and topless blue bags	70,350	
Memo and letter headings printed	505	reams
Writing paper for patients die stamped	256	"
Books, various, bound	4,446	+
Pads, various, bound	10,766	+
Forms, Various, printed	375,800	+

Mat-Makers.

Doormats, new	393
Jug mops	3,808
Mats repaired	112
Rugs "	64
Coal sacks repaired	98

Tinsmiths.

Tins, various, made	74
Kettles	24
Coal scuttles	48
Sundries, i.e. milk churns, etc.	179
Repairs to tins, spectacles, cutlery, etc.	2,103
Various sundry repairs	14



Painters.

Painting buildings. Patients gangs under direction,  
 Extensive works, wards and corridors.  
 Various articles painted 900 +++

Brick.

Repairs to brickwork, etc. Patients gangs under direction.

Basket.

New baskets	42
Baskets repaired	182
Wicker chairs repaired	75

Tailors.

New tweed jackets	2
" drill and calico coats	114
" trousers	3
Calico shirts	248
Pillow cases	82
Mattress covers	551
Laundry bags and linen bags	445
Bed sackings	114
Gowns for Hospitals	614
New rugs made	219
Mattress and pillow ticks	494
Braces	104
Doctors and surgeons gowns	66
Dusting brushes (jug mops without handles)	3, 000
Ambulance wraps	97
Strong rugs and sheets, etc.	48
Jackets, waistcoats, trousers, caps and overcoats repaired	6, 158
Rugs, mats, strong suits, laundry bags, towels & curtains repaired	909

Shoe.

Boots and shoes repaired	9,299½ prs.
Braces, leggings, etc. repaired	234

Wood.

Number of bundles of firewood despatched	144,100
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Mattress.

Mattresses, new	128
Pillows, new	128
Dust covers	236
Mattress covers	192
Mattresses remade	761
Bolsters remade	26 + 10
Pillows remade	572 + 26
Various re-upholstering (articles)	23







Brushes,

Number of brushes made	10,532
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Carpenter.

Machining for builder as required	
Coffins	29
Various articles made new	223
" " repaired	3,600

Upholsterer.

Cushions, new	155
New Canvas bags, aprons, loose covers, etc.	210
Chairs re-upholstered	40
Couches "	12
Settees "	19
Cushions "	44
Hassocks "	12
Various items re-upholstered	55

Small Livestock.

Oavies bred	2,117
Rabbits bred	313

NEEDLEROOMS.Yearly totals of principal items made.

Aprons, Nurses, etc.	702
" Patients	1,889
Bags, laundry, etc.	1,040
Bolster cases	120
Bedjackets	250
Caps, Nurses, etc.	585
Chemises	480
Combinations	520
Covers, Toilet & bed	2,614
" Table	160
" Cushion	560
" Various	2,045
Cloths, Diet	11,871
" Hearth, Oven, etc.	2,590
" Pudding	10,921
" Tea and Glass	48,014
" Table, Tray & Sideboard	741
" Various	2,332
Counterpanes	288
Curtains	300
Dresses, Uniforms	350
" Patients	109
Face Flannels	8,880
Feeders	3,108
Nightgowns (including nightshirts)	4,034
Netticoats	808
Pillow cases	38,884
Pinafores	2,694
Restrainers	386
Rugs, Woolen	200
Scourers	2,605



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Needlerooms - continued.

Squares	10,841
Sheets, bed & cot	50,907
"    draw	30,036
"    bath	3,113
"    dust, ironing, etc.	969
Towels, hand	38,010
Towels, round	21,439
"    Bath, Dressing, Theatre, etc.	3,473
Various, including nurses and surgeons gowns, abdominal sheets and other special items.	4,150
Yearly total of all items	<u>312, 118</u>

The bulk of the articles produced were made from materials supplied by the London County Council. This supply is now exhausted and the needlerooms are practically at a standstill, pending deliveries of materials from new contractors.





PART III.GENERAL.

The main event of the year 1948 was the change of Management of Darenth Park. The London County Council ceased to have the care of the place on 4.7.48, except for a few minor agencies such as the Supplies and Engineering departments which had orders and works still incompletd, and on 5.7.48 - the "appointed day" - Darenth Park and Stone House were grouped together and became the responsibility of the South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, and of the Hospital Management Committee appointed by the Regional Board.

The original Hospital Management Committee was as follows :-

Chairman:	The Right Hon. Sir Frederick Wells
Other	E.C. Sherwood, Esq.,
Members:	D.M. Thomson, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
	D. Timins, Esq., O.B.E., M.A.
	Cyril Turner, Esq.,
	Mrs. E.V. Wallace
	C.W. Lochtie, Esq., L.D.S., R.C.S.I.,
	F.W. Ingle Lowe, Esq.,
	F.M. Newnham, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
	Mrs. A.E. Osborne.
	Miss J.M. Wild..
	G. Allison-Beer, Esq.,
	Mrs. I. Brook, S.R.N., S.C.M.
	H.W. Seymour Howard, Esq., J.P.
	P.M. Turnbull, Esq., M.C., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M.

Mr. H.G. Pearce did not take up the appointment or attend meetings and later in the year resigned from the Management Committee. Gerald W. Smith, Esq., J.P. was appointed to the Committee in November, and R.P. Steward, Esq., in December, 1948.

During the early months of the new Management, Sir Frederick Wells, (later created Baronet), was Lord Mayor of London, and the meetings of the Management Committee were held at the Mansion House, London.

An inevitable result of change of Management was a slowing-down of momentum in many ways. It would have been embarrassing had the old authority agreed to planning which might lead the new authority into commitments in the way of expense and which the new Management might not have liked anyway; and the new Committee had naturally to proceed cautiously until a clear picture of total requirements could be seen and attention focussed on what should be done and the order in which it should proceed. The principal officers found themselves face to face with many unexpected problems such as other Management Committees attracting staff away, and placing elsewhere contracts for articles previously made here in great quantity for the London County Council. This was of course in large measure due to the lack of knowledge on the part of newly appointed Supplies' Officers, and the ignorance of the Government departments of the resources and requirements of Darenth Park in such matters as labour available and materials required. The result being much less work for the industrial department, less revenue, and much more idleness and unrest among the patients whose training in various occupations also suffered.





None of the interrupted plans for the "modernisation" of the wards on the male side, the new bakehouse, adaptation of old laundry to "Stewards Stores" or re-building of gymnasium, &c., could be commenced; nor could necessary repairs of any size to structure be undertaken especially when complicated by the effects of war damage.

Deterioration and dilapidation continue to increase.

All the plans for these essential works should be reviewed as it was some 14 to 16 years ago that they were made. In this review it is considered that the services of an architect with experience of modern mental hospital requirements should be sought.

The state of the roads, paths and airing courts continues to get worse. In some parts they are dangerous for patients, especially to crippled and paralytic, and for the staff, especially the elderly.

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS.

Attention was drawn in my last Annual Report to the inadequate provision of accommodation for the male tubercular patients and the unsatisfactory manner in which female tubercular patients have to be treated in the Hospital Block with cases of general surgical and medical illness. The conditions remain as previously. Verandahs are required for the males (wards 22 and 23), and separate accommodation with some single rooms and verandahs for the females.

#### TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OF PATIENTS.

These continue along the lines detailed at length in my 1947 Annual Report. Although the industrial training has diminished, that in the Horticultural department and on the farms has increased. Since Mr. Pink came in February 1948, there has been a steady improvement in matters of horticulture. Many more patients have been placed under Mr. Pink and his assistants, and have done well. Extensive alterations to the ornamental grounds have been made, and a large number of trees and interesting shrubs have been planted. It is hoped that this branch will expand very greatly as it offers more opportunities to patients to proceed on daily licence outside the hospital, and thence to full licence, than any other. Projects of wider scope are in preparation for comprehensive horticultural training, and in these are included plans for the training of female patients.

Educational training continues but to a very limited extent, as Mr. and Mrs. Beattie, who did the work, did not return to it from their holiday early in the year; but Miss Dathan, Recreation Supervisor, gives what time she can to this work.

50 blind, crippled and other patients unsuitable for ordinary employment in the workshops were engaged in the Occupational Therapy centre in Ward 21, throughout the year and reaped much benefit. Unstable patients became interested and much more settled, their sense of importance developed and they derived great satisfaction at their progress. 14 higher grade patients from other wards volunteered to assist the patients in the occupational centre in preparing materials to make mechanical toys for distribution as presents at the



Staff Children's Christmas Party. The activities of these voluntary working evenings closed with impromptu sing-songs, which the patients resident in the ward greatly appreciated.

#### DAILY LICENCE AND PAROLE.

The demand for patients on daily licence continues to exceed the supply of suitable patients.

A special experimental effort to employ unstable and unreliable female patients was undertaken during September-December 1948, and consisted of sending some 30 of these patients accompanied by a nurse, by lorry each morning to Crockenhill, to the Fruit Pulping Station run by Mr. Jack Lee, who sent for and returned the patients each day. The experiment was a success. The girls were delighted with their lorry rides, their work, their remuneration, and with the general interest in their welfare shown by Mr. Jack Lee. Few attempts to take advantage of opportunities for absconding were made, and there was no lack of volunteers for replacement of those who proved incapable of the work involved. Those who are still here are anxious to get started again in the Spring.

The number of patients on daily licence during 1948 was 151. Their total earnings amounted to £8,131.9.4d. £1052.12.5d was paid towards maintenance to the London County Council. Since 5.7.48 no contribution to maintenance has been levied.

Parole to Dartford was granted to an average of 258 male patients weekly, and to 8 female patients. Those who abused their privileges were very few.

A number of patients were allowed to proceed to their homes unaccompanied, for week-end and holiday leave.

#### PATIENTS' ENTERTAINMENT.

A very successful Annual Sports Day was held here on 10th June, 1948, at which it was possible for every patient to attend. The full Darenth Park Sub-Committee of the London County Council Mental Hospitals Department also came and spent the day with the patients.

Two dances weekly were held throughout the year, and two cinematograph shows were also given each week.

Two representatives of the Royal Association in Aid of the Deaf and Dumb made frequent visits throughout the year to our patients who are afflicted in this way, and a special party was given for them by representatives of the Association, who provided a cinema show followed by refreshments.

Various Concert Parties were engaged to give twelve shows, and five performances of "Alladin" given by the Guides and Rangers were greatly appreciated by both male and female patients. Shows were also given by a Concert Party organised by the male patients.

60 patients (30 male and 30 female) attended a Pantomime at the Scala Theatre, Dartford, at the invitation of the Management.







A Carol Concert by the Dartford Parish Church Choir and members of the Latvian Staff of Darenth Park was given on 17.12.1948.

With the assistance of the Matron and Chief Male Nurse, and with my approval, Dr. Crawford inaugurated a patients' social club which meets on most Saturday evenings for dancing to gramophone music, games and refreshments. This club is one at which patients of both sexes mix freely with a minimum of obvious supervision, and has met with success and appreciation.

#### MALE PATIENTS' ENTERTAINMENT.

Football - Matches played at Darenth Park on Saturdays - 24. Won 18, lost 6. Matches played at mid-week inter-hospitals - 11, Won 11. Matches played away - 11. Won 11.

Coaches were provided for away matches with the result that 330 patients enjoyed rides to places as far afield as Claybury, Botleys Park, etc., and when possible patients with relatives at any of the hospitals visited were sent with the parties in order to see them. Where it was necessary for an early start to be made, lunch was provided by the hospital visited, and this not only ensured satisfactory meals for the patients, but also proved to be a most popular feature of the trips.

On dates when important matches were played at the Dartford Football Club's ground, parties up to 350 patients were able to see the games and in all six parties were sent, making a total of 2100 patients, the ground being only ten minutes walk from Darenth Park.

The provision of extra kit allowed for two teams to play, and the junior team played six local school teams, winning two, drawing one and losing three.

Cricket - A most successful season, during which the patients' teams, both senior and junior, played many more matches than usual. The junior and inter-ward teams were able to arrange matches with local school teams. 22 inter-hospital matches were played, 11 at Darenth Park and 11 away, so that again some 330 patients were able to travel by coach to the various hospitals.

Indoor games. An indoor games tournament was organised for the winter months in a series of 26 games, and was won eventually by Ward 11. These games were very keenly contested and provided entertainment for a large number of patients who did not actively participate in the games. A monthly result sheet was posted and this proved of great interest to the patients.

Outings chiefly arranged for patients on daily licence, consisted of weekly visits of 50 patients to a local theatre by bus. "Live" shows were the interesting attraction and a very cheap entry fee allowed patients to attend the theatre for nine weeks. Some 530 patients took advantage of what was, to the majority, something new.

Hastings, Clacton, Ramsgate and Margate were visited during the Summer by parties of 30 patients at a time.



These were patients on daily licence who were able to pay their own fares and the cost of the coaches. The experiment was a success and experience gained will enable an extension of this form of outing in the coming season.

Wembley Stadium was visited by two coach parties of 30 patients each and the events, including the final of the Olympic Games series, were very much appreciated.

Witham Boys. On 20th May, 1948, Miss C.A. Pattisson who used to take a big interest in the patients at the Bridge Homes, Witham, Essex, before they were transferred here some 25 years ago, and who still maintains her interest in them, arranged a party for the "old Witham Boys", 51 of whom are still here. The outing was of special interest as she took them to see their old home, provided them with tea and games, and returned them here.

#### FEMALE PATIENTS' ENTERTAINMENT.

A special entertainment was given by the Rangers, and tea provided for a party of some 100 elderly female patients who were able to attend it.

13 coach trips took female patients to Sheerness and one to Herne Bay. 274 patients were allowed to go to Dartford in parties for Christmas shopping.

Rangers and Club Activities - Two Ranger Meetings and a Girls' Club meeting were held weekly. There were 69 girls in the Rangers and 36 in the Club. Activities at the meetings included country dancing, team games, educational games, knots, roller and triangular bandaging, health rules and sick child nursing, and first aid. 5 girls passed the sick nurse test and 1 child nurse, sick & child nursing, and 1 toymaker. During the Summer months part of the meetings were held in the open.

Weekly walks were encouraged and parties of 20 girls took two hour walks, gathering in season, bluebells, blackberries and chestnuts.

A Keep Fit class was held weekly and this included marching, exercises, skipping and games, netball, badminton and table tennis.

27 girls attended a weekly educational class for the three Rs. Parties of female patients attended the State Cinema in Dartford.

6. Rangers attended Camp with the Dartford Ranger Company, who had invited them. 18 Rangers attended the Guide Gift Service at Christchurch, Dartford, taking gifts made by themselves.

The Annual Party was held in January 1948, and was attended by the President and the District Commissioner. During the year the Guides and Rangers were visited by Lady Alatheia Elliott, Commissioner for Extension Companies for England, and by Mrs. Drew, Divisional Commissioner.

Whist drives and Ludo drives were held for the patients. On Christmas Eve parties of Rangers and Guides visited wards to sing Carols.





### REWARDS TO WORKING PATIENTS.

During the year the £30 weekly authorised by the London County Council to be distributed amongst those working patients who receive no other reward, has been continued. It has been spread over the female working patients, most of whom received 6d a week, some 1/- and a few 1/6d. Since these small rewards were commenced in November 1947, a noticeable improvement has occurred in the demeanour and conduct of the patients receiving them. They now anticipate their weekly "pay-day", and appreciate that this pocket money, however small, is a recognition of their contribution towards the administration of this community. Routine tasks are performed much more cheerfully. A report as to reasonable rewards for working patients along the lines suggested by the Royal Medico-Psychological Association has been submitted and approved by the Management Committee, and awaits the decision of the Minister on this highly important matter.

### SPIRITUAL MINISTRATION TO PATIENTS.

Canon Elliott Mitchell, Rural Dean and Vicar of Dartford who is the Chaplain, spent a large proportion of five days a week here and took Church of England Services on Sundays. He stands in high affection with the patients and staff. The Rev. Prentice, Vicar of Rosherville, and the Rev. Johnson assisted Canon Mitchell, and made frequent attendances at Darenth Park. Weekly choir practices were held under the direction of Aug. B. Arnold, Esq., Organist, and religious teaching was given to the patients.

The Rev. Fairhurst, Free Church Minister, paid frequent visits to the Non-Conformist patients.

The Rev. Callanan visited Roman Catholic patients, and held Services for them.

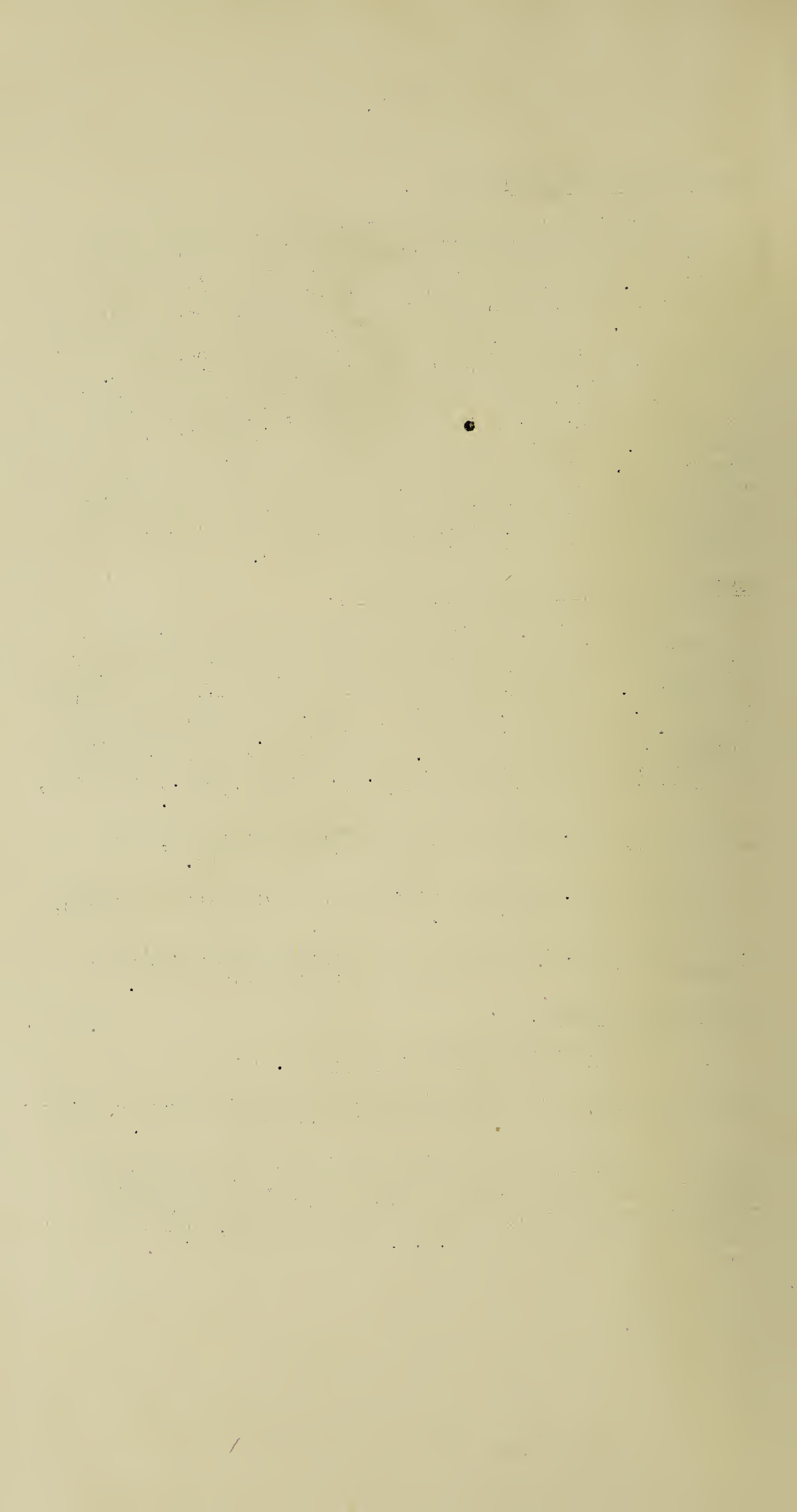
The Rev. Zeffert, Jewish Visiting Minister held eleven Services for the Jewish patients during 1948.

### TRAINING OF NURSES.

#### (a) Preliminary Training School.

29 students passed through the Preliminary Training School, 28 from Darenth Park and 1 from Stone House.

350 lectures were given during the year in the school, and visits were made to the farm, milking parlour, sewage works, occupational centres, boiler house, water filtration and chlorinating plant, deep well, auto-clave, out-patients department, E.N.T. and dental clinics.





### (b) Student Nurses.

260 lectures were given by Dr. Crawford, Dr. Tucker and the Acting Sister Tutor, Miss Frances, to 55 student nurses in their first, second and third year classes. In addition full courses of practical work were undertaken. The teaching is in accordance with the syllabus of the General Nursing Council. All students were given opportunities to witness operations.

Through the kindness of Miss Collins, Principal of the Bexleyheath Technical School, a special teacher attended here on Thursday afternoons for two sessions of twelve classes in dietetics and practical cookery.

Three candidates were successful in the R.M.P.A. preliminary examination in May, and one in November, 1948. One candidate was successful in Part II and two in both parts of the preliminary G.N.C. examination in June, and one was successful in Part II and three in both parts in the G.N.C. October examination.

Two Latvian domestic maids became student nurses in April, 1948 and two more in November 1948, thus increasing the number of Latvians amongst the female student nurses to 8. Three Latvian male student nurses joined during the year. The conduct and bearing of all the Latvians is exemplary, and their serious interest in their studies and work shows their determination to overcome all difficulties and obstacles whether caused through language or otherwise.

### STAFF.

Shortage of staff in general and trained staff in particular has been a big obstacle in the proper training and nursing of defectives, and this has been made even greater because of the influx of low grade patients who require much nursing care and attention. Full use has had to be made of the higher grade patients in assisting the nurses with their duties.

Five European volunteer workers, German, commenced as domestic workers in December, 1948.

I feel that a tribute should be given to the devotion to duty of the senior nursing officers of both sides, and indeed to all ranks of nursing staff, particularly those of longer service, who have put their personal convenience in the back-ground in order that the patients should not lack any possible attention that might be to their benefit or entertainment.

### TEACHING DEMONSTRATIONS.

Probation Officers and Students undergoing Home Office Courses attended on four occasions during the year, when lectures and demonstrations on the Mental Deficiency Acts, and the various types of patients, training &c., were given by the medical staff. These lecture demonstrations were keenly appreciated by the visitors who in the course of their duties will certainly come into contact with many feeble-minded people, types of whom they were able to see here.



During 1948, four medical students from the Westminster Hospital, spent a month of their vacation here as nursing assistants. They proved of great help during the periods they were here, and expressed a desire to repeat their visit during 1949.

#### BOARD OF CONTROL VISIT.

Two Commissioners and an Inspector of the Board of Control visited and inspected the Hospital on 18th October, 1948, and made a satisfactory report.

#### STAFF SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB.

The Club continued to provide a wide variety of interests. Cricket, football, tennis, table tennis, badminton, gramophone recitals, charabanc trips and indoor games formed the main activities. In addition to these, highly successful dances and socials were held at intervals throughout the year.

A Christmas Party was given to the children of members of the Hospital Staff. Some 120 had an uproarious time and each child a fine toy, balloons and a very generous tea.

#### IN CONCLUSION.

The continued lack of adequate staff, the lack of materials, and the insistent demand for beds for low grade patients for whom Darenth Park is neither staffed nor equipped, made 1948 a difficult year.

The year 1949 will call for energetic measures in recruitment of staff, in obtaining materials and orders, in a big expansion particularly of the horticultural training, and in expenditure on necessary repairs and modernisation. Only the right types of trainable defectives should be admitted.

Otherwise further slowing down of the machine and possible retrogression will inevitably occur.

I would like to place on record my appreciation of the valuable assistance Dr. J.M. Crawford, Deputy Medical Superintendent and Assistant Physician, and Dr. J.M. Tucker, 1st Assistant Medical Officer, have at all times rendered.

I have the honour to be,  
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

J.K. COLLIER LAING.

Physician Superintendent.







